



Chairman Flynn and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jerry Davis. I represent the Montana Bowhunters Association in this testimony.

The Montana Bowhunters Association's mission is to preserve and promote bowhunting opportunities.

MBA stands in support of HB 269 because it generates new moneys for the Block Management Program under a simple increase in Hunting Enhancement fees. HB 269 has an advantage over HB 268 simply because it provides a simpler formula for generating funds. Under this proposal every hunter will pay for the program. That is only fair because every hunter sees the program's benefits. Furthermore this proposal does not require any additional enforcement obligations for the Department.

All hunters in Montana receive a benefit from Block Management. This benefit is due to decreased concentrations on public lands. More area to hunt means fewer hunters per square mile. This is safer and results in a much more satisfying hunting experience.

As with other hunters Block Management is also important to bowhunters because it provides additional public hunting opportunities throughout the state of Montana.

Most bowhunters are in this sport because they not only love archery but also enjoy hunting during a time of year when hunting pressure is not as great. Block Management provides more areas for archers to bowhunt in and subsequently reduces hunter concentrations. With more areas available for bowhunters to utilize, bowhunting can remain a solitary intimate sport even as the numbers of bowhunters increase.

MBA urges you to vote "do pass" to HB 269.

Thank you,

Jerry Davis

Montana Bowhunters Association

A black and white photograph of a large, multi-story building with a prominent central tower and many windows, likely a government or institutional building.